

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 00391 142153Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 CPR-01 SY-05 OPR-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W
-----142203Z 029346 /63

R 141214Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 718

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MI

SUBJECT: SITUATION RE DETENTION OF USIS LIBRARIAN JUSTIN FUNSANI

REF: A. LILONGWE 0321 B. LILONGWE 0388

1. THURSDAY, MARCH 10, I CALLED ON PERM SEC OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS KACHINGWE AND RAISED MATTERS COVERED BY AIDE MEMOIRE ON ABOVE SUBJECT AND ALSO INFORMED HIM OF FACT FUNSANI HAS BEEN PRINCIPAL SUPPORT OF ELDERLY PARENTS. KACHINGWE SAID HE HAD HEARD NOTHING FROM "OFFICIALS CONCERNED" AND WOULD PRESS THEM ONCE AGAIN. HE REMARKED THAT I WOULD BE SEEING PRESIDENT BANDA TOMORROW SO PERHAPS "WE SHOULD CONSIDER YOUR RAISING IT WITH HIM". (THIS WAS FIRST NOTICE I HAD HAD OF MEETING). I SAID I WOULD VALUE HIS ADVICE ON THIS POSSIBLE ACTION AND AFTER PUZZLING OVER THE MATTER A FEW MINUTES HE FINALLY CONCLUDED IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA AND THAT I COULD TELL BANDA HE HAD SUGGESTED MY BRINGING UP THE SUBJECT.

2. AT CLOSE OF CONVERSATION WITH BANDA NEXT DAY (REF B) I TRIED A "GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS APPROACH" AND FIRST TOLD HIM OF FORTHCOMING VISIT OF RICE EXPERT WHOM HE AHD REQUESTED SOME SIX MONTHS AGO. HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE VISIT AND SEEMED PLEASED. THEN I RAISED THE MATTER OF FUNSANI DESCRIBING HIM AS A VALUED EMPLOYEE
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WHO HAD BEEN HONEST AND EFFICIENT AND WHOM WE HAD CONSIDERED TO BE A LOYAL CITIZEN OF MALAWI; THAT HE WAS KEY FACTOR IN OUR PLANS KEEP LIBRARY OPEN IN BLANTYRE. ADDED HOPED CHARGE WOULD NOT PROVE SERIOUS AND DESCRIBED OUR INTEREST IN SEEING HIM IN ORDER TO PUT LIBRARY ACCOUNTS IN ORDER AND TO ARRANGE LEGAL WAY TO GIVE SOME OR ALL OF HIS ACCUMULATED SALARY TO HIS NEEDY, ELDERLY PARENTS.

3. BANDA STAYED CALM AND REMARKED "YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE DON'T DETAIN PEOPLE UNLESS THE CHARGE IS SERIOUS." HE SAID CASE HAD NOT YET COME BEFORE HIM SO HE SUPPOSES IT IS STILL BEING INVESTIGATED BY POLICE. OBSERVED THAT SOME MALAWIANS TAKE JOBS WITH EMBASSIES THINKING THIS WILL GIVE THEM PROTECTION FROM MALAWIAN AUTHORITIES AND THIS EMPHATICALLY NOT THE CASE. I SAID I WAS CONFIDENT FUNSANI WAS NOT ONE OF THESE. BANDA AT FIRST SEEMED TO THINK I WAS ASKING THAT FUNSANI BE RELEASED IN SOME WAY SO THAT WE COULD TALK WITH HIM. WHEN I SENSED THIS MISUNDERSTANDING AND HIS CLEAR UNWILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER SUCH A COURSE I GOT THE MATTER CLARIFIED AND HE SOMEWHAT BRUSQUELY SAID HE SAW NO REASON WE SHOULDN'T TALK WITH FUNSANI, AND I SHOULD GET IN TOUCH DIRECTLY WITH POLICE COMMISSIONER KEMWANA, THAT HE WOULD KNOW ABOUT IT WHEN KAMWANA GOT IN TOUCH WITH HIM.

4. COMMENT: TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO SEE KAMWANA IN ZOMBA THAT SAME DAY. WILL TRY AGAIN THIS WEEK.
STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, FOREIGN SERVICE LOCAL EMPLOYEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770087-0682
Format: TEL
From: LILONGWE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770360/aaaacbox.tel
Line Count: 81
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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